

**March 25, 2010 meeting minutes  
Cambridge GLBT Commission**

**Meeting schedule change due to April school vacation:  
NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010**

**I. Call to Order**

Toni Snow recorded these minutes.

Commissioners Present: John Gintell, Sarav Chithambaram, Bob Parlin, Steven Lee, Priscilla Lee, Toni Snow, Kevin Shpritzer, Colby Berger, Lesley Phillips, Tony Wieczorek.  
Commissioners Absent: (excused) Jeff Walker, Mal Malme and (unexcused) Julia Pallotta and Richard Juang

Guests: Kate Powell, Prospect Hill Academy, Ed Byrne, CRLS Diversity Coordinator; Supt. Chris Burke and Lt. Stephen Ahern, Cambridge Police Dept.

**II. Motion to Accept Agenda:** Passed.

**III. Motion to Accept Minutes from February 22, 2010 meeting:** Passed.

**IV. Brief announcements:** John had a very positive meeting with Mayor Maher and his Chief of Staff, Lee Gianetti regarding assistance for GLBT Commission from Mayor's Office. Pride Brunch, possible staff support on projects such as the Seniors Health and Housing project, and other activities. We may have additional support from the staff of the Cambridge Human Rights Commission, now that Executive Director, Marlissa Briggett, has been hired.

John also spoke with Michelle Farnum, Director of Cambridge Youth Programs -- she is interested in hosting our self-defense workshop, possibly at the West Cambridge Center. (

April 10<sup>th</sup>, between 1:00 – 4:00pm is date of next Census outreach event at Harvest Coop in Central Square - Toni S. will arrange for table and Tony W. and Mal M. will work the event. Future events may be held at Whole Foods, Trader Joe's and 1369 Coffee House. Someone would have to volunteer to coordinate and schedule these.

The Commission and Laura Waldon of the Census bureau had a Census/Commission oriented table at the Boston Derby Dames (Roller Derby) event at the Wilmington Shriners Auditorium on Saturday March 27, Many GLBT Commission Tote bags and other census pareerphanalia was given out as well as answering questions,

**V. Kate Powell, Prospect Hill Academy Charter High School:** Kate gave an overview of PHA, mentioning the school's GSA (in operation for 10 years) and describing it's faculty as gay friendly. GSA activities include a Friday lunch group, a student life group that meets every other Wednesday for two hours, and a fund raising initiative for Waltham House. She identified an issue with the GSA being largely or totally comprised of white

kids, most of whom are gay allies, and the work to be done on getting reluctant gay kids involved. Kate also identified a racial barrier to broader GSA participation, namely that minority students perceive being gay as a “white thing.” The GSA does not have an online presence.

#### **VI. Ed Byrne, CRLS Diversity Coordinator**

Ed described CRLS’s P10E as being very different in makeup from PHA. The CRLS group consists mostly of 9<sup>th</sup> graders, with no involvement from the older kids. The 9<sup>th</sup> graders (both GLBT and allies) are very actively involved, recently holding a Nat’l Day of Silence Assembly and attending a True Colors Conference at University of Connecticut. The group sponsored a showing of the film “Straightlaced” in gym class and was recently invited to speak to students at the Fayerweather Street School. Members will attend an end-of-year day trip to Provincetown. Similar to PHA, CRLS also has difficulty attracting minority students.

The group discussed the need to address racial disparity within Cambridge GSAs. Suggestions speakers such as youth or young adult speakers from PFLAG (funds may be needed to cover). Also, True Colors (part of Theatre Offensive) does performance for a fee and occasionally free. More followup is needed.

#### **VII. Update on Cambridge Charter School – Paula Evans will meet with Bob P. soon.**

#### **VIII. Pride – June 12, 2010**

Discussed this years’ event. In addition to the Brunch at City Hall, 10:30-11:30, should there be a City march or car in the parade? We definitely need to do more publicity and should seek co-sponsors – perhaps Bay State Stonewall Democrats and other organizations which would have to be identified.. Awards including a CRLS student award are included. Having a well known speaker would help. John G. will schedule planning meeting with Mayor Maher.

#### **IX. Elder Event**

Toni S. and Lesley P. will attend SCES Elder Fair, April 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00-2:00 at Healy School in Somerville. Toni will establish contact with Somerville GLBT Liaison.

#### **X. Other Outreach - May Fair and Riverfest – planning underway**

Toni S. will coordinate May Fair table (and work the event) on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Harvard Square. Stephen Ahern will contact coordinator Robin re location of table.

Toni S. will coordinate Riverfest. GLBT Commission members will work shifts at the day-long event (11:00 – 6:00pm).

#### **XI. Public Safety:** Slow progress is being made on Goal training with CFD and EMTs. Toni S. and John G. will meet with Chief Persson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.